

Development

(1954) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 5757

Dated 12-11-48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agriculture - Grow More Food - Second Periodical Conference - Adjourned Session to review the progress at Ministerial Level - Proceedings of the Meeting held on 11-10-48 - Communicated.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Abstract.

AGRICULTURE & Grow More Food Second Periodical Conference
Adjourned session to review the progress at Ministerial level - Proceedings of the meeting held on 21-10-1948 - Communicated.

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Development Department.

G.O. Ms. No. 5757.

Dated the 22nd November 1948.
Read the following:-

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G.O.Ms.No.5512, Development, dated 26-8-1948.
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O R D E R:

In continuation of G.O.Ms.5412, Development, dated 26-8-1948, a copy of the proceedings of the adjourned session of the Second Periodical Conference held on 21-10-48 for reviewing the progress of the Fisheries and Irrigation Grow More Food schemes is communicated to the Director of Agriculture, Director of Industries and Commerce, Director of Animal Husbandry, Board of Revenue, Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, Registrar of Co-operative Societies Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and Director of Public Health for information and necessary action.

2. A copy of the proceedings is also communicated to Revenue, Public Works, Food and Finance Departments for information and necessary action.

(BY ORDER OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR)

Sd.W.R.S.SATTHIANATHAN,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Agriculture.
To the Director of Industries and Commerce.
To the Director of Animal Husbandry.
To the Board of Revenue.
To the Director of Public Health.
To the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
To the Chief Engineer(Irrigation).
To the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.
To the Food Department.
To the Revenue Department.
To the Public Works Department.
To the Finance Department.
Copy to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture.
Copy to the Regional Food Controller.
Copy to E & F Sections.

/True Copy/

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADJOURNED SESSION OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE GROW MORE FOOD SCHEMES AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL HELD AT 3-30 P.M. ON THURSDAY THE 21ST OCTOBER 1948 IN THE CABINET ROOM AT FORT SAINT GEORGE GAZETTE.

PRESENT:

The Hon'ble Sri O.P.Ramaswami Reddiar.
The Hon'ble Sri M. Baktavatsalam.
The Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon.
The Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya.
The Second Member of the Board of Revenue (Mr.V.N.Kudwa)
The Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
The Director of Agriculture.
The Director of Industries and Commerce.
The Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Madras.
The Secretary to Government, Development Department.
The Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.
The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
The Joint Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
The Special Officer for Wells, Board of Revenue.

FISHERIES SCHEMES.

The Hon'ble Premier initiated the discussions by enquiring what quantity of fish had been caught through departmental activities during the year. The Director of Industries and Commerce stated that deep sea fishing operations undertaken by the Department were not profitable owing to various difficulties. The vessels bought from the Army Surplus Stores were not quite suitable for the work. They were made of wood and had not been covered with copper plate. As a result they were often subjected to attacks by insects, which burrowed into the timber, thus rendering several of them temporarily unfit for use till they were repaired. He had to incur an expenditure of about Rs.850/- every month on these repairing charges. They were not capable of long cruises as they were slow moving. They were able to go only ten or fifteen miles into the sea and the catches were sometimes good and at other times poor. One difficulty in venturing into the deep sea was the absence of maps and charts of the Indian Ocean. The Government of India have not yet undertaken the survey of the Ocean and the Director of Industries and Commerce suggested that they might be requested to undertake this survey as early as possible. The Hon'ble Premier enquired how in other countries they were able to conduct deep sea operations in the Atlantic Ocean which is also not surveyed. The Director of Industries and Commerce stated that in the Atlantic Ocean they were using modern vessels equipped with up-to-date contrivances, particularly with facilities for cold storage, so that the fish that were caught could be preserved in good condition for a number of days till they were marketed. No such facilities were available here. Sometimes even before they reached the shore here, the fish caught got spoiled owing to the time it took for the vessels to reach the shore. Moreover, fish do not get as good a price in coastal places as in towns in the interior. They had therefore to reach interior towns in good condition to obtain proper value. For this it was necessary to have some arrangements for cold storage and for quick transport. Often when big hauls were brought to the shore they had to be sold for whatever price they could fetch for want of facilities to take them in good condition to interior towns speedily. Sometimes surplus and unsold fish were salted. The workers were now-a-days demanding high rates and in many places they were given 50% of the catch as wages.

The Hon'ble Premier suggested that inland lakes, ponds and reservoirs should be developed by introducing suitable variety of fish for multiplication. The Director of Industries and Commerce said that intensive work is carried on by the Department in this regard, but the main difficulty was prevention of poaching, which caused much damage as indiscriminate fishing in these inland reservoirs led to rapid deterioration of stock. He considered that things would improve if they appointed more watchmen and staff to intensify supervision. The Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development suggested that a definite programme for developing and multiplying the stock in ponds, lakes and tanks should be drawn up with fixed targets for each area and the responsibility should be laid on the officers of the department that no illicit fishing was carried on in their jurisdiction and that the target aimed at was realised. The Hon'ble Premier stated that in places where there was perennial supply of water, fish should be introduced and cultured. He also suggested that spring beds in rivers like the Pennar and Palar should be reserved for rearing fish. The Director of Industries and Commerce stated that the spring-bed failure of rains during the past year considerably hampered the activities of the department in this direction, but assured that every effort would be made to see that the amount spent on these schemes was more than realised by way of increasing the supply of fish, to provide additional sustenance to the people.

In reply to an enquiry by the Hon'ble Premier about the work done by the officers of the departments deputed to America, the Director of Industries and Commerce stated that the Officer deputed studied only marine fishery and that his report would reach Government in about a week's time. The Director of Industries and Commerce also stated that he was taking steps to expand the yield from Ootacamund lake and from the other lakes in the Nilgris and hoped to show better results next year. He also stressed the need for a separate Director for Fisheries Department so that an administrative Officer could devote his sole attention towards achieving the objects with more intense inspection and supervision.

IRRIGATION SCHEME:

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation gave a statement of the number of schemes sanctioned and the number in progress. Hon'ble Premier wanted fuller details of work done so far by the Public Works Department as the public constantly asked for this information wherever he went to the districts. He also said that apart from sending reports to the Government of India on these schemes, the Government must also satisfy themselves with the progress maintained and see that the results achieved are commensurate with the amount spent. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation promised to furnish the detailed information required by Hon'ble Premier. Hon'ble Premier stressed that in the selection of works preference must be given to perennial springs, spring channels and ponds which, if kept in proper condition would be capable of yielding water for even three crops. The Chief Engineer (Irrigation) said that he would bear this in view and also mentioned that he was investigating how far the spring channels in north Pennar could be improved to yield more water for cultivation. The Hon'ble Premier said that the ryots were themselves in many cases carrying out the repairs to the irrigation tanks and that as the Government collected money from them, they should devote more attention to these improvements. He also said that in the Palar river there were some perennial channels

which, if kept in good condition would supply plenty of water to the ryots. These channels did not require repairs annually, and it would be enough if they were attended to once in three years.

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the P.W.D. and
M.I. Overseers
as such trans-
Hon'ble Premier stressed that the Board of Revenue, Collectors and Tahsildars and P.W.D. — officials should take more interest in seeing that these schemes were executed speedily. He also stressed that there should not be constant would only impede the progress of work. Secretary, Public Works Department said that there was difficulty in securing good contractors for carrying out the schemes economically. The Joint Secretary Board of Revenue stated that a list of 600 channels covering various villages was furnished by the Board to the Public Works Department and urged that those channels should be repaired early.

The Chief Engineer suggested that channels supplying Public Works Department tanks must be transferred to P.W.D. Hon'ble Premier observed that this point must be taken note of.

The Hon'ble Premier remarked that the ryots were carting silt from the tanks, and this is being prevented in Madura, Ramnad and Coimbatore. He observed that this should not be done and should be looked into.

schemes should be prepared
Hon'ble Premier remarked that ~~the ryots were carting~~ silt for each and every district so that no district might be left out, and a time limit might be set out within which the schemes should be sent up and then they could be attended to systematically.

The question of abolition of Kudimaramath which was raised by the Special Officer was also discussed. Hon'ble Premier suggested that for maintenance of channels a flat rate could be levied for each district per acre instead of Kudimaramath, the rate varying from district to district according to the cost of maintenance. The amount so collected might be remitted into the Treasury. The Chief Engineer (Irrigation) strongly advocated that this might be given effect to.

The Chief Engineer (Irrigation) continued to state that some schemes were pending with Government for approval and that a start has been made in regard to the schemes sanction in February 1948. They were calling for tenders, but tender rates were high. He was awaiting Government sanction for special staff and was for the present carrying on with the regular staff. There was difficulty in securing qualified men for appointment. Out of 217 schemes the Chief Engineer said that nearly 160 were taking definite shape and in eight months proposals for sanctioning the other schemes which were now under various stages of investigation, would be sent to the Government. Out of the 217 schemes the Chief Engineer said that 40 related to delta areas and the others to non-delta areas. Hon'ble Premier wanted also to have detailed information regarding the number of schemes sanctioned, the estimated expenditure during the current year and the period within which these schemes were expected to be completed. He further stressed that targets should be fixed specifying the amount that was going to be spent and a programme drawn up in an order of priority. Hon'ble Premier desired that the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) should give information about these schemes of work to the Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers during his camps so that they could tell the ryots what was being done by the Government on their behalf. The Conference then terminated at 5-10- p.m. & Proposed for each district in the delta areas the number.

W.R.S. SATHIANATHAN.
Secretary to Government.

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Office Assistant
H. J. 228 P. 2000 Office